



December
2006

New Sterling Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

The Stirling

THE LEGEND OF THE CANDY CANE

No season is so rich in signs and symbols as Christmas (manger, stars, angels, shepherds). All of these visual expressions draw our attention to the birth of Christ. The stars of silver and gold and shining blue remind us of the star that was seen in the East. The carols breathe the spirit of the angels' voices. Our gifts to others imply the greatest gift that we would offer Baby Jesus.



Of the scenes of Christmas none is more beautiful than the shepherds on the hillside watching their flocks by night, with crook in hand, about their humble business of guarding and keeping safe their flocks. The shepherd's crook was at the first service of worship of the Christ. Its counterpart is our candy cane — so old as a symbol that we have nearly forgotten its origin.

We are immediately attracted by its color: red and white. Red is for sacrifice, white is for purity. The body of the cane is white representing the life that is pure or that may be pure. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Even as the shepherds came in humility, so should our worship be. The broad red stripe is symbolic of our Lord's sacrifice for us. He gave His life for our sins. The smaller stripes symbolize the sacrifice we must make as Christians and the shape of the staff suggests a symbol of service.

The aroma of peppermint is akin to the herb hyssop. Recall what the psalmist said, "Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean. Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow."



The candy cane is shared just as we are to share our Christian love. We must not leave the Baby Jesus in the manger—He came that we might have life through Him. The good news of Christmas is of great significance because Jesus came to save us from our sins and to give us Eternal Life.

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- December 2 3:30 Meet at Church to load shoeboxes
 5:00 Pack shoeboxes at Samaritan's purse
- December 3 10:00 Youth Decorate Christmas Tree in Fellowship Hall
 4:00 Youth Council
 5-6:30 Children's Choir
 7:00 Deacons Meet
 7:00 Elders Meet
- December 6 5:30 Youth Shepherds Christmas Caroling
 7:30 Adult Choir
- December 9 9:00 Knit Wits meet with Marcia Winters
- December 10 11:00 Ordination/Installation of Elders and Deacons
- December 11 10:30 Sterling Silvers Meet
 6:30 Women's Ministries Christmas Dinner
- December 13 6:00 Youth Shepherds Christmas Party
 7:30 Adult Choir
- December 17 11:00 Choir Cantata
 7:00 Children's Christmas Program
 Newsletter Items Due
- December 18 7:00 Knit Wits meet with Jeanette Hauck
- December 20 No Youth Shepherds
 7:30 Adult Choir
- December 21 6:30 Seekers Bible Study Christmas Caroling
- December 24 Christmas Eve
 8:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- December 25 *HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!***
- December 27 No Youth
 7:30 Adult Choir



***His name shall be called...
 Prince of Peace.***
Isaiah 9:6

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Do you know how the song “The Twelve Days of Christmas” originated from 1558 until 1829 Roman Catholics in England were encouraged not to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote a catechism carol for young Catholics. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

- The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ
- The two turtle doves were the Old & New Testaments.
- Three French hens stood for Faith, Hope & Love.
- The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.
- The five golden rings recalled the Law—the first five books of the Old Testament.
- The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
- Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- The eight maids a-milking were the eight Beatitudes.
- Nine Ladies dancing? These were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit in Galatians 5.
- The tens lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.
- Eleven pipers stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
- Finally, the twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve statements of faith in the Apostles Creed





The Pughs

Craig and Susan Pugh met in the early 1980s when they both worked for two different Farm Credit offices. They got married and moved to Statesville in 1984. It only took one visit to New Sterling for them to realize that this was their new church home. (Susan had been a Presbyterian and Craig was a member of a Quaker church in Sophia, NC.)



Craig is a branch manager at Carolina Farm Credit in Statesville, and enjoys golf in his spare time. At Church, he is the financial secretary, an elder, attends the men's Bible Study and is on the CE committee. He has gone on both mission trips recently for Hurricane Katrina relief.

Susan baby-sits several children (including their granddaughters) and is the pianist for New Sterling. She is involved in New Sterling's Women's Ministries, Knit Wits, the Evangelism committee and woman-to-woman mentoring. Her hobbies are gardening, crocheting, collecting Christian books (she is planning to read them all someday...) and playing musical instruments.

Craig and Susan have three children Scott, Kelly and Daniel. Scott is married to Jessica and they are the parents of two daughters, Adeleigh and Paisley. Scott is a mechanical engineer and Pneu Mech and Jessica teaches at Scotts Elementary School. Both are active with New Sterling.

Kelly is a senior at UNC- Charlotte, majoring in Elementary Education. She will be doing her student teaching at Davidson Elementary School. She likes to read, walk and shop. Kelly is a member of the Young Adult Sunday School class.

Daniel is a junior at West Iredell High School where he is on the Student Counsel. A scholar athlete, he participates on the cross country and swim teams. He enjoys Theater Arts classes and acting in school plays. He also loves helping with Bible school skits, attending Bonclarken conferences and playing Frisbee. He's a Senior High Sunday School class member and a Youth Shepherd.

Scott, Jessica, Kelly and Daniel all sing with the Contemporary Christian Choir (C³) and Scott is one of the guitarist.

Elena Johnson

Marta Elena Johnson's father (Jose Rufols) was from Barcelona, Spain. He went to Cuba with two uncles and were living in the City of Gtmo. Later he met Elena's mother, who also lived in the same city. Elena has six siblings, three brothers and two sisters, all attended the American School, with American teacher. Afterwards, they attended middle and high school, both were Spanish schools.

Elena attended the University of Havana and studied Business Administration for four and a half years. When she returned home, she traveled to the Naval Base. She passed a test that was given and she began working in a office with 150 other Americans and Cubans. Elena worked as an accountant with some of the American wives that lived on the base, while their husbands were working. Her desk was at the front of the building and that is where she met Glenn Johnson, they married June 6, 1951. From the Naval base they went to Norfolk, Virginia and lived there for two years.



Later Glenn was called to return to the Navel base in Cuba. They moved into Elena mother's house. She and her sister found a job on the base, which was 30 minutes away from her mother's house. Elena left Cuba and moved to Statesville to live with Glenn's mother and family until they found a house. When Glenn retired in December 19, 1955 they moved to Statesville. When Castro took over, little by little Elena's family moved to Statesville and other areas of the country.

Elena was the Spanish teacher for Statesville High School and was the head of the department. She also attended Appalachian State University on Saturdays and in the summer to receive the her Masters degree. After 25 years as the head of the department she retired and began keeping her granddaughters. As a gift for retirement Elena got to ride in a hot air balloon. She still helps the teachers when they need it and enjoys assisting the 1st and 2nd grade and the Mexican children.

For 15 years Elena was the translator for the Health Department two to three days a week. Today she still goes out with the staff on home visits as a translator. She left the health department last June and all the workers gave her a dinner and some presents, she misses them.

Elena belongs to the Delta Kappa Gamma and the Iredell Statesville Retired School personnel, which meets every three to four months. She received the 1985-86 Teacher of the Year Award.

Glenn and Elena has one daughter Glenda Johnson Moose. She has two granddaughters Jamie and Amanda. All live in Statesville.

Elena has attended New Sterling since 1956, and eventually became a member in 1959. She belongs to the Women of the Church and has been apart of the Dorothy Dagenhart Circle since its beginning. She, Norma Jenkins and Birchie Pope started the Nursery at New Sterling , she remembers Johnsie Jenkins as one of her first children in the nursery. She has helped make ornaments for the Church's Chrismon tree, decorated for the mother-daughter banquet several times and helped teach and assist in the kitchen for Bible School.

(Elena Johnson continued from page 5)

Elena loves to travel visiting her family in New York, Florida and California. As a teacher, she started taking her students to foreign countries during their Easter and summer vacations:

1972: Mexico with seven students, attending the Ballet Folkloric, as well as a bull fight.

1973: Spain, her daughter Glenda traveled with them. Viewing the Roman Aqueducts, she told her students that Cuba has some of the same type of arched and columns.

1974: Columbia, SA two missionaries showed them around, visiting the Gold Museum, Salt Cathedral churches, a bull fight and other places.

1974: During summer vacation traveled to Spain, North Africa and Portugal with five students and other teachers. From New York, flew to Madrid and met Sister Obegaza who guided their tour and later flew to Portugal. On June 30, they sailed to North Africa and saw the Mediterranean beach.

1975: Acapulco with a group of 17 students from SHS, Glenda and Pat Stewart.

1976: Mexico with 14 students, visiting the pyramids, Acapulco and other places. On the way home they stayed in New Orleans for a couple days.

1977: Caribbean cruise with 47 students, Spanish teachers, Glenda and her niece traveled as well. When they arrived they saw a sign that said "Welcome Statesville High School!" The ship stopped at St. Martin, St. Thomas, Puerto Rico, etc.

1978: France and Spain with 17 students, 5 from Alexander Central. They visited Madrid, El Escorial, Toledo, a bull fight, The Gothic Cathedral, Segovia, Arula, Paris, and Versailles.

1981: Europe with 14 students, visiting Paris, London and Madrid. They saw the Chateau of Chantilly, Notre Dame, the View of Versailles the Quans House, etc.

1988: London, Paris and Barcelona, visiting all in ten days viewing Buckingham palace to changing of the guard. Belgium, Paris and many places in Spain. Elena saw a plaque given to the aunt of her father for donating money to a monastery. She was also able to visit Barcelona where her father was raised.

1990: Munich, visiting the Town of Baravain Kings, the Gothic Churches, the Olympic village from the 1972 games, art galleries, concentration camps at Dache, the romantic road to the Town of Rothenberg. During this trip they also traveled to Germany, Switzerland and the French Rivera.

Trip to Rome (date not provided): Last trip to Europe. They met a professor from the University of Rome that showed them around, visiting the entrance of the Monsignor to the Vatican, the University, Catatumbas, etc.

Sterling Silver News

Sterling Silvers had their Thanksgiving covered dish luncheon on 13 November. Attendance was below average as 15 members were in attendance. A vote on a Sterling Silvers project was taken and it passed. Pledges will be asked for in a undisclosed submission only to the Director of Sterling Silvers.

Members are reminded that our December Christmas Meeting will be held on 11 Dec, Monday at 1030 AM. Meal will be furnished (DO NOT bring a sandwich). A gift exchange will be held with Bingo being the method of distribution. Each member is asked to bring a gift.

There will be no January meeting.



The Reeses;The Snyders;The Milhollands;Betty Godfrey;Helen Cashion;The Lindermans; The Sarge on their way to the Boone, NC.

Lunch at Daniel Boone




Pastor Tim our driver



You are cordially invited to
A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!

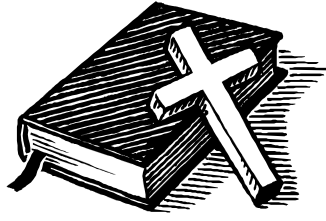


- Date:** Everyday. Traditionally, December 25 but he is always around, so the date is flexible.....
- Time:** Whenever you're ready (Please don't be late, though, or you'll miss out on all the fun!)
- Place:** In your heart.....He'll meet you there. (You will hear Him knock) 
- Attire:** Come as you are....grubbies are okay. He'll be washing our clothes anyway. He said something about new white robes and crowns for everyone who stays till the last.
- Tickets:** Admission is free. He's already paid for everyone..... (He says you wouldn't have been able to afford it anyway....it cost Him everything He had. But you do need to accept the ticket!!)
- Refreshments:** New wine, bread and a far-out drink He calls the "Living Water," followed by a supper that promises to be out of this world!
- Gift Suggestions:** Your life. He's one of those people who already has everything else. (He's very generous in return though. Just wait until you see what He has for you!)
- Entertainment:** Joy, Peace, Truth, Light, Love, Life, real Happiness, Communion with God, Forgiveness, Miracles, healing, Power, Eternity in Paradise, Contentment and much more! (All "G" rated, so bring your family and friends.)
- R.S.V.P.** Very Important! He must know ahead so He can reserve a spot for you at the table. Also, He's keeping a list of his friends for reference. He calls it the "Lamb's Book of Life."

Party being given by his Kids (that's us!!) Hope to see you there!

For those of you whom I will see at the party, Share this with someone today!





The Worship Committee is prepared to place new Bibles in our pew racks. If you would like to purchase one or more as a memorial or honorarium, there is a sign up list outside the Chapel Bible Class or contact Jeff McNeely at 704-872-

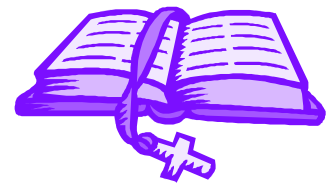


*With
Sympathy*

We express our deepest sympathy to Dale Massey and JoAnne Hartness in the recent passing of their brother, Jerry Massey. We ask for comfort and peace for the entire family.



The Knit Wits Visit Mrs. Billings



Taryn Setzer, Juanita Massey, Pat Price, Marcia Winters, Julie Winters, Delinda Mauney, Mrs. Billings, Michelle Hairyes and Cindy McNeely

Theme Scripture

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves



Mrs. Billings wanted to tell everyone at New Sterling, "HELLO".



Mrs. Billings and Great Grandsons, Zach and Kent



Granddaughter Meredith, Zach, Mrs. Billings, David, Camile & Kent



“Hey! Did you hear about those people at New Sterling?”

Joseph and Julie Alghrary have a new baby boy, **Josiah Phenar**, born October 27, 2006 at a weight of 8’4”. We were surprised recently when they all 3 came for worship service.....**Frank Emery** going all the way to Mississippi to learn how to toss a beer can into the trash can.....**Dale Massey** getting a nail to the head during the Mississippi Mission trip.....The **Knit Wits** recently visited **Lucille Billings** and she said to tell everyone at New Sterling “Hello”..... The Knit Wits who traveled to Kernersville were, **Michelle Hairyes, Taryn Setzer, Cindy & Madelyn McNeely, Pat Price, Juanita Massey, Julie, Madison & Elijah Winters, Marcia Winters and Delinda Mauney**. After a wonderful visit with Mrs. Billings, we enjoyed a wonderful lunch together at Chilis.....**Carolyn and Lonnie Elliott** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a reception at Beulah Baptist Church on November 19 hosted by **Donna, Darrell and Dawn**.....**Franklin Beatty** has spent significant time in the hospital with a bout of pneumonia and complications.....**Florence Brookshire** is now at home after spending a lengthy stay in the hospital.....Congratulations to **Kelli Johnson and Gray Emery** who both made the JV basketball team at West Iredell High School!.....Congrats also to **Dylan Deal** who made the I.C. Stars JO volleyball team! Way to go guys!!!!.....**Anthony Brady** recently shot an 8 point deer. He says this is #6 this year for him.

Elders recently elected were **Kent Clarke, Doug Gryder and Harvey Reese**.....**Laurel Gray** fell and broke her collarbone.....**Jeff and Nancy McNeely** suffered lots of physical damage as their place of business was recently broken into....Ask **Michelle and Richard Hairyes** what time the sun comes up.....**Mary Lippard** recently spent time in the hospital and is now residing at Hospice & Palliative Care in Statesville.....Those that went on the Bilouxi Mission trip were: **David Brady, Anthony Brady, Craig Pugh, Kent Clarke, Frank Emery, Dale Massey, Lynn Jenkins, Harold Moose, Adrian Jarret, Tommy Morton, Paul Milsaps, Harvey Reese, Chris Morton, Lori Compton, Eddie Compton, Judy Watson and Pastor Tim Watson**.....Deacons recently elected were **Adrian Jarrett, Brian Setzer, Scott Snyder and Derek Winters**.....30 attended the Marriage Retreat in Banner Elk—**Pastor Tim and Judy Watson, Kent & Sherry Clarke, Scotti & Todd McCulloch, Michelle & Richard Hairyes, Scott & Sheila Snyder, Tony & Linda Harper, Jeff & Cindy McNeely, Kitz & Frank Emery, Pat & Clay Price, Justin & Hannah Moore, Julie & Derek Winters, Jill & Tim Hager, Eddie & Lori Compton, Melissa & Tim Donnelly, Ken & Jeanette Hauck**....**Kurtis Hauck** was awarded the Most Improved Player award for the West Iredell Cross Country Team’s 2006 season. Congratulations on the hard work ...**Betty Godfrey** praise!! NO more chemo for 6 months!!!....

Scotti McCulloch, Michelle Hairyes, Muriel Jenkins, Taryn Setzer and Delinda Mauney recently went on their annual “Shop Till You Drop” day on November 4. This is their 26th anniversary of going the first Friday in November every year. The only problem seems to be that the “Drop” time seems to be getting earlier and earlier.....**Tony and Linda Harper** recently celebrated their anniversary in Pigeon Forge. When they got home, they went straight to the marriage retreat.....**Rev. Earl Linderman** scared us with an emergency visit to the hospital for a couple of days. We hear he is home now and doing better.



“NO! What did they do?”

Here and There!!!!

One who is filled with joy preaches without preaching.



Angel Tree

New Sterling is sponsoring 2 families for Christmas this year. The Angel Tree is up and located just inside the Educational Building. Everyone grab an ornament or two and let's make this a very special Christmas for these families. If you have particular questions, please see Juanita Massey or Delinda Mauney.

Women's Ministries

All Women of New Sterling are invited to the December meeting. It will be held in the Fellowship Hall

On Monday, December 11 at 6:30 pm.

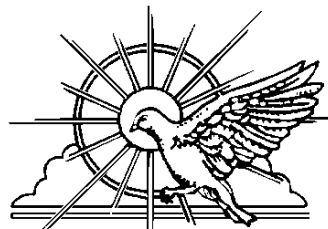
Each lady will bring a favorite salad.

Secret Sisters will be revealed.

Officers will be installed by Mrs. Rachel Spencer.

Every lady in the congregation is invited to attend.

Come one, come all!

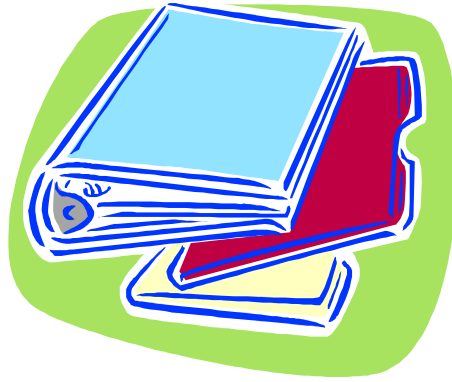


"My soul magnifies
the **LORD**,
& my spirit rejoices
in **GOD** my savior."
Luke 1:46-47

Sarah Watts
Campus Box 15880
Lee Hall
Raleigh, NC 27607
NC State University

Erin Waugh
UCC
245 Memorial Drive
Suite 6770
Cullowhee, NC 28720
Western Carolina University

Kelly Pugh
9238 Campus Edge Circle
Charlotte, NC 28262
University of NC Charlotte



**Remember our College
Students with a note or a
card.**

Clifton Mauney
1401 Riverstreet Apt. #52
Wilkesboro, NC 28697
Wilkes Community College

Erica Harper
9238 Campus Edge Circle
Charlotte, NC 28262
University of NC Charlotte

Andrea Clarke
CPO 679
Erskine College
PO Box 1001
Due West, SC 29639

MEDICARE AT ITS BEST

Comedy Corner

The phone rings and the lady of the house answers, "Hello".
"Mrs. Ward, please." "Speaking."
"Mr. Ward, this is Dr. Jones at the Medical Testing Laboratory. When your doctor sent your husband's biopsy to the lab yesterday, a biopsy from another Mr. Ward arrived as well, and we are not uncertain which one is your husband's. Frankly the results are either bad or terrible."
"What do you mean?" Mrs. Ward ask nervously.
"Well, one of the specimens tested positive for Alzheimer's and the other one tested positive for AIDS. We can't tell which one is your husband's."
"That's dreadful! Can't you do the test again?" questioned Mrs. Ward.
"Normally we can, but Medicare will only pay for these expensive tests one time."
"Well, what am I supposed to do now?"
"The people at Medicare recommend that you drop your husband off somewhere in the middle of town. If he finds his way home, don't sleep with him."

Homebound and Assisted Living

Norma and Johnsie Jenkins
1753 Midway Road
Stony Point, NC 28678
704-585-6960

Leroy Johnson
Autumn Care
2001 Van Haven Drive
Statesville, NC 28625
704-878-2321

Mary Lippard
Hospice & Palliative Care
Room 5
2347 Simonton Road
Statesville, NC 28625

Pauline Pope
Autumn Care
2001 Vanhaven Drive
Statesville, NC 28625

Mary Deal
Autumn Care
2001 Van Haven Drive
Statesville, NC 28625


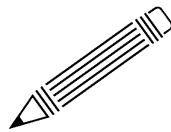
Edith Reese
PO Box 346
Buford, GA 30515

Doris Ingram
Statesville Manor
2441 East Broad Street
Statesville, NC 28625



If we have missed anyone or you would like to have your name listed here, please contact Delinda Mauney at 704-880-0527 or Taryn Setzer at 459-2637

Address for Bobby Buchanan:
Robert Lewis Buchanan
PO Box 310
Polkton, NC 28135



*How
beautiful on the
mountains are
the feet of those
who bring
good news.*

Isaiah 52:7



- 2 Betty Sides
- 3 Linda Harper
- 4 Shaun Thompson
- 4 Larry Watts
- 5 Tena Campbell
- 5 Pressly Reese
- 5 Betty Thorne
- 6 Jaime Moose
- 7 Matthew Selves
- 10 Kent B. Brady
- 10 Trent Brady
- 12 Barbara McClure
- 12 Clark Milholland
- 13 Estelene Jenkins
- 13 Peggy Pope
- 14 Phyllis Shoemaker
- 14 Dalton Winters
- 15 Anthony Brady
- 16 Kate Bennett
- 16 Dorothy Beatty

DECEMBER
MEMBER
BIRTHDAY
SYNOPSIS

- 17 Doris McNeely
- 17 Austin Williams
- 18 Dawn Keller
- 19 Martha Harding
- 19 Jim Snyder
- 20 Stacey Johnson
- 21 Jeff Waugh
- 22 Marvin Bennett
- 22 Craig Pugh
- 23 Olean Deal
- 23 Mallory Garrison
- 23 Brandon Gray
- 23 Aric Pope
- 25 Don Brady
- 26 Peggy Gray
- 27 Jim Benfield
- 27 Lori Pope
- 29 Natalie Sherrill
- 30 Ed Henderson
- 31 Laura Chambers
- 31 Juanita Massey

Merry Christmas